of agricultural and allied commodities during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage export of agricultural commodities and processed foods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the export of various agricultural and commodities during 1993-94 are as given below Table :

	Commodity	Target (US $ Million)
1.	Fruits, vegetables, processed food items etc. .	465
2.	Oilcakes, etc. . .	555
3.	Cereals . . .	370
4.	Cashew . . .	300
5.	Tobacco . . .	190
6.	Sugar and Molasses .	175
7.	Spices . . .	160
8.	Others . . .	40
	TOTAL . .	2255

(c) The introduction of unified exchange rate, the lowering of customs duries, easier availability of credit for exports, changes and simplifications in the EXIM Policy and procedures and smplification of compulsory preshipment inspection of exports are steps taken with a view to creating an environment which is highly conductive to exports. Apart from the above general measures the following decisions/actions have been taken with the specific purpose of encouraging and boosting the export of agricultural commodities :

1. Extension to the exporters of agriculture, acquaculture animal husbandry, pisciculture, poultry, the benefits available to approved units under the scheme of 100% EOUs and EPZs subject to the condition that exporters export 50% of their produce while the remaining 50% can be sold in the domestic tariff area;

2. Decanalisation of export of milk products ;

3. Extension of exemption from payment of cess on the export of pepper and spice oils and oleoresins for one more year;

4. Permitting export of mustard seed and rapeseed without any export licence subject to a quantitative ceiling of 50,000 tonnes each

5. Decontrolling of the export of wheat products ;

6. Introductions of air-freight subsidy scheme on export of selected fuits and floriculture to selected destinations ;

7. Introduction of Indian logo for the export of spices in branded consumer packs ;

8. Exemption on payment of cess on the export of sugar ;

9. Permission for the export of durum varieties of wheat subject to MEP of $ 160 PMT and quantitative ceiling of 3 lakh tonnes this year ;

10. Permission to export superfine non-basmati rice subject to MEP of US $ 225 PMT ;

11. Permitting export of edible oils (other than groundnut oil) in consumer packs up to 5 kgs.

Imports and Export Policy

322. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering several policy initiatives to

increase exports and decrease imports in the foreign trade ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any proposals for reduction in the import duties on software and leather inputs as required by exporters have been determined by Government ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take for appropriate action on the demand of certain exporters for the amendment of Section 88 HHC of Income Tax Act to get tax exemption on profits ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government have already taken several policy initiatives to increase exports and to facilitate export-linked imports, which include, *inter-alia* introduction of unitied exchange rate system, revision of Export-Import Policy 1992-97 with emphasis on simplification and streamlining of policy and procedures, reduction in import duties, increase in availability of credit at lower rates of interest stremgthening infrastructural facilities and improving quality through technological upgradation.

(c) and (d) Proposals regarding reduction import duties on crucial imports including software and leather inputs, as also modifications in Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act suggested by exporters, are receiving the attention of the Government.

323. [*Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]

Setting up of Export Promotion Zones

324. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many export Promotion Zones have been set up in the country so far ;

(b) whether procedural and other delays are affecting the functioning of the Export Promotion Zones ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Governmet to remove the obstacles in the functioning of the Export Promotion Zones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) 7 Export Processing Zones have been set up in the country so far.

(b) and (c) Even though growth of exports from the Zones have generally maintained a positive trend, Policy and Procedures regarding EPZs are under constant review. Some of the changes made in this regard include speedier approvals, simplification of the Policy framework, DTA access with reduced rates of duty and delegation of powers to Development Commissioners of EPZs.

325. [*Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]

Trade Potential between India and South Africa

326. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that South Africa has projected a trade level of 1 billion dollars with India in the near futcre ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is premature to make any assessment of India's trade with South Africa as sanctions on economic relations with South Africa have been lifted only in October, 1993.